(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue of giving sales tax relief on electronic toys with the Finance Ministry; and

(d) if so, Finance Ministry's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Comprehensive Policy Package announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30.08.2000, the General SSI Excise Exemption limit was enhanced from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs. The same limit is continuing 1st September, 2000.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has informed that as per entry 54, List II in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, sales tax is a State subject. Therefore, any concession in this regard can be granted by State Government only.

Quality and cost of SSI products

2349. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Small Scale Industries are not able to compete with foreign products from quality and cost of production point of view;

(b) if so, the steps taken to help the Small Scale Industries to improve the quality and reduce the cost of production to compete with foreign products; and

(c) the names of the sectors where Government have come to rescue of the SSI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) While globalisation and the removal of quantitative restrictions have exposed the Indian Small Scale Industries (SSI) to greater competition, the Government has put in place several measures to help our industries become globally competitive. These include special focus on adoption of quality standards, technology upgradation, use of electronic

infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package has been announced on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the SSI sector. The package *inter-alia* includes easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure. In addition, Government have formulated National Programmes for the Development of the Indian Toy Industry, Lock Industry, machine Tool Industry and Stone Industry in association with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), State Government, concerned indsutry associations etc. to enhance competitiveness of the SSIs in the these sectors.

Encouragement to small and medium Enterprises

2350. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Small Scale Industries Corporation has drawn up schemes to restructure small and medium enterprises in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the small and medium enterprises in the country are not properly encouraged resulting adverser impact on growth of such units; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the concrete steps taken to encourage small and medium enterprises in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has drawn up may schemes to promote, aid and foster the growth of small scale industries in the country.

(b) To cater to the new requirements of SSIs new schemes are formulated from time to time. Some of the new schemes drawn up by